



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Commonwealth Games

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COMMONWEALTH GAMES STRENGTHENS TIES WITH INDIA

The Minister for Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, has outlined the key benefits of the Commonwealth Games at a major trade and investment forum in India.

As part of his five-day trip to the 2010 host city of the Commonwealth Games - Delhi, Mr Madden helped to forge trade, investment and cultural links with Melbourne.

Addressing the Commonwealth Business Council at the Indian Trade and Investment Forum today, Mr Madden outlined some of the key benefits of the Games for both host cities.

“Cities across the world have found that hosting a major event like the Games can generate significant economic and social benefits,” Mr Madden said.

“With redevelopment of infrastructure and the natural synergies of the 2006 and 2010 Commonwealth Games, there are significant opportunities for Victorian companies to benefit from the Delhi Games.

“Especially in industries like architecture and town planning, traffic and transport engineers, building products suppliers, event management and security technologies.

“This is something Indian businesses, in turn will be able to offer the next host city in 2014.”

The trip will also help strengthen cultural ties with India as Mr Madden meets Director-General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Mr Rakesh Kumar.

He is also scheduled to meet with Ministers and senior government officials including his Indian counterpart Sunil Dutt, Minister for Youth Affairs and Sport and Mr Arvinder Singh Lovely, Minister for Education with the Delhi Government.

India is a key growth market for Victorian exporters with trade between Victoria and India growing by over 20 per cent in the past five years to \$574 million.

Key growth areas include biotechnology, ICT, manufacturing, tourism and education.

Both the City of Melbourne and the City of Ballarat have adopted India for the Games through the Victorian Government’s Adopt A Second Team program, with hopes of establishing stronger cultural and economic ties.

The XVIII Commonwealth Games will be held from 15 – 26 March 2006 bringing together 4,500 athletes from 71 nations.

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